

## Naloxone Access in Iowa 2021

Access to naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal medicine, is one of the key strategies in reducing deaths involving opioids. In Iowa, naloxone can be administered per state law for anyone “in a position to assist”. [Iowa’s Good Samaritan law](#) provides protections to a friend, loved one, or bystander who administers naloxone in a potential opioid overdose situation. In some cases, a professional scope of practice limitation may impact an individual’s ability to administer naloxone on the job.

Naloxone is a prescription medication, which under normal circumstances would require a doctor’s prescription to obtain. Due to the ongoing opioid crisis, the [statewide standing order](#) allows for specific versions of naloxone to be provided without a prescription. However, it still must be dispensed by an entity authorized to do so by the Board of Pharmacy. For some, an individual’s insurance benefit might cover the cost, but the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has sought various ways to make it [more accessible for all Iowans](#), regardless of insurance status.

Requesting naloxone (Narcan nasal) kits can be done in the following ways:

- 1) For personal use: Many [local pharmacies](#) participate in a free program that provides grant-funded naloxone to any Iowan that requests it after completing a brief eligibility assessment.
- 2) For personal use: The [Tele-Naloxone program](#) is a free program that allows individuals to have a brief appointment with a pharmacist on a mobile device and then have the naloxone shipped to their address.
- 3) For worksites: The Bureau of Substance Abuse became authorized to purchase and distribute naloxone under the statewide standing order. Initiatives have grown to include the following: law enforcement, fire departments (non-EMS regulated), colleges, Emergency Departments, County Public Health offices, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, Community Mental Health Centers, Assertive Community Treatment teams, and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment agencies. For more information and to request forms, please contact [RaChel.Greenwood@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:RaChel.Greenwood@idph.iowa.gov)
- 4) For worksites: All EMS-regulated first responder entities should receive training and naloxone (available in multiple formulations) from the Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services at IDPH.
- 5) FAQ: Will anyone know if I get naloxone? A: Yes, your medical information is confidential and follows the rules of HIPAA, so the options noted in 1. and 2. above are reported by pharmacies to the Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program.